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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/976,588	10/12/2001	Sho Kou	SONY-50P4379.01	2245

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EXAMINER

VOELTZ, EMANUEL T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2121

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DATE MAILED: 07/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,588

Applicant(s)

KOU ET AL.

Examiner

Emanuel T. Voeltz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.



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Examiner's Detailed Office Action

This action is in response to patent application number 09/976,588, filed October 12, 2001.

Claims 1-30 have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on October 12, 2001 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner. The examiner would like to thank applicant's attorney for providing, via overnight FedEx, a secondary copy of the references listed on the PTO-1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,480,889 B1, granted to Saito et al.

Regarding claim 1,

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In a controller device, a method for selecting and controlling devices in a network (see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15), said method comprising: selecting a first device from a first listing of devices, wherein said first device is a sink device for receiving input from another device; selecting an input plug for said first device from a listing of input plugs for said first device (see column 10, lines 8-49); selecting a second device from a second listing of devices, wherein said second device is a source device for providing input to another device; and selecting an output plug for said second device from a listing of output plugs for said second device (see column 10, lines 8-49); wherein said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs are generated using information read from said first device and said second device, respectively (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 2,

The method of claim 1 wherein said network is substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 communication bus standard (see column 7, lines 2-19).

Regarding claim 3,

The method of claim 1 wherein said information used for generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs is not stored on said controller device (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 4,

The method of claim 1 wherein said first listing and said second listing are the same (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 5,

The method of claim 1 wherein said first listing comprises sink devices and said second listing comprises source devices (see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 6,

The method of claim 1 wherein in response to said selecting of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug, a network connection between said first device and said second device is made, wherein said second device provides input to said first device using said network connection (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

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Regarding claim 7,

The method of claim 6 wherein input provided to said first device is output by said second device using only said output plug (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 8,

The method of claim 1 comprising: querying said first device and said second device; and reading information provided in response to said querying, wherein said information is used for generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs (see column 10, lines 8-49).

Regarding claim 9,

The method of claim 1 comprising: executing programmed instructions to automatically select said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug (see column 7, lines 14-19).

Regarding claim 10,

The method of claim 1 comprising: recording selections of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug (see column 10, lines 8-49 and figure 4).

Regarding claim 11,

The method of claim 1 comprising: selecting a channel from a listing of active channels, wherein said listing of active channels identifies network connections between devices in said network (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 12,

A controller device for selecting and controlling devices in a network (see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15), said controller device comprising: a user interface (see column 10, lines 8-18) comprising an input-select element and an output-select element; wherein said input-select element is operable to cause a first device to be selected from a first listing of devices and to cause an input plug for said first device to be selected from a listing of input plugs for said first device (see column 10, lines 8-49), wherein said first device is a sink device for receiving input from another device (see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15); wherein said output-select element is operable to cause a second device to be selected from a second listing of devices and to cause an output plug for said second device to be selected from a listing of output plugs for said second device (see column 10, lines 8-49), wherein said second device is a source device for providing input to another device (see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15); and wherein said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs

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are generated using information read from said first device and said second device, respectively (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 13,

The controller device of claim 12 wherein said network is substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 communication bus standard (see column 7, lines 2-19).

Regarding claim 14,

The controller device of claim 12 wherein said information used for generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs is not stored on said controller device (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 15,

The controller device of claim 12 wherein said first listing and said second listing are the same (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 16,

The controller device of claim 12 wherein said first listing comprises sink devices and said second listing comprises source devices (see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 17,

The controller device of claim 12 wherein in response to selection of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug, a network connection between said first device and said second device is made, wherein said second device provides input to said first device using said network connection (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 18,

The controller device of claim 17 wherein input provided to said first device is output by said second device using only said output plug (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

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Regarding claim 19,

The controller device of claim 12 wherein a selection of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug is performed automatically according to programmed instructions (see column 7, lines 14-19).

Regarding claim 20,

The controller device of claim 12 wherein said controller device is operable to record selections of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug (see column 10, lines 8-49 and figure 4).

Regarding claim 21,

The controller device of claim 12 wherein said input-select element is operable to cause a channel to be selected from a listing of active channels, wherein said listing of active channels identifies network connections between devices in said network (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 22,

A controller device for selecting and controlling devices in a network (see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15), said controller device comprising: means for selecting a first device from a first listing of devices, wherein said first device is a sink device for receiving input from another device; means for selecting an input plug for said first device from a listing of input plugs for said first device (see column 10, lines 8-49 and see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15); means for selecting a second device from a second listing of devices, wherein said second device is a source device for providing input to another device; and means for selecting an output plug for said second device from a listing of output plugs for said second device (see column 10, lines 8-49 and see figure 3 and col. 7, lines 20-67 and col. 8 lines 1-15); wherein said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs are generated using information read from said first device and said second device, respectively (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 23,

The controller device of claim 22 wherein said network is substantially compliant with the IEEE 1394 communication bus standard (see column 7, lines 2-19).

Regarding claim 24,

The controller device of claim 22 wherein said information used for generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs is not stored on said controller device (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines

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1-7).

Regarding claim 25,

The controller device of claim 22 wherein in response to said selecting of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug, a network connection between said first device and said second device is made, wherein said second device provides input to said first device using said network connection (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 26,

The controller device of claim 25 wherein input provided to said first device is output by said second device using only said output plug (see column 10, lines 8-49 and figure 4).

Regarding claim 27,

The controller device of claim 22 comprising: means for querying said first device and said second device; and means for reading information provided in response to said querying, wherein said information is used for generating said listing of input plugs and said listing of output plugs (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 28,

The controller device of claim 22 comprising: means for executing programmed instructions to automatically select said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug (see column 7, lines 14-19).

Regarding claim 29,

The controller device of claim 22 comprising: means for recording selections of said first device, said input plug, said second device and said output plug (see column 10, lines 8-49 and figure 4).

Regarding claim 30,

The controller device of claim 22 comprising: means for selecting a channel from a listing of active channels, wherein said listing of active channels identifies network connections between devices in said network (see figure 4, Unit Dependent Directory and column 8, lines 16-67, column 6, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-7).

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Prior Art of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The various patents are cited for showing the general state of the art in managing and/or connecting nodes in a home network environment using IEEE 1394 communication bus standard.

Correspondence Information

Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Emanuel Todd Voeltz** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 305-4563**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 872-9306**. If you would like to send a Non-Official (draft) facsimile transmission the fax is **(703) 746-5104**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **Anthony Knight**, may be reached at **(703) 308-3179**.

Any response to this office action should be mailed too: **Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231**.

Moreover, hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist, located on the **fourth floor of Crystal Park 11, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia**.

Emanuel Todd Voeltz
Primary Patent Examiner
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Patent & Trademark Office


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PRIMARY EXAMINER